

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
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THE COLONIAL AND STATE RECORDS OF NORTH CAROLINA
AND THE COLONIAL RECORDS OF NORTH CAROLINA [SECOND SERIES]

THE COLONIAL AND STATE RECORDS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Probably the most frequently used and certainly among the most valuable sources for the student and historian of early North Carolina are two series of printed and published documents sometimes referred to as *The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*. This title is not entirely accurate; and since researchers and librarians far removed from North Carolina may have difficulty in identifying these volumes in library card catalogs, they may find the following exact citations to be of interest:

William L. Saunders (ed.), *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 10 volumes, 1886-1890).

Vol. I, 1662-1712
Vol. II, 1713-1728
Vol. III, 1728-1734
Vol. IV, 1734-1752
Vol. V, 1752-1759

Vol. VI, 1759-1765
Vol. VII, 1765-1768
Vol. VIII, 1769-1771
Vol. IX, 1771-1775
Vol. X, 1775-1776

Walter Clark (ed.), *The State Records of North Carolina* (Winston and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 16 volumes, 1895-1907).

Vol. XI, 1776, and supplement, 1730-1776
Vol. XII, 1777-1778
Vol. XIII, 1778-1779
Vol. XIV, 1779-1780
Vol. XV, 1780-1781
Vol. XVI, 1782-1783
Vol. XVII, 1781-1785
Vol. XVIII, 1786, and supplement, 1779
Vol. XIX, 1782-1784, and supplement, 1771-1782
Vol. XX, 1785-1788
Vol. XXI, 1788-1790
Vol. XXII, Miscellaneous
Vol. XXIII, Laws, 1715-1776
Vol. XXIV, Laws, 1777-1788
Vol. XXV, Laws, 1789-1790, and supplementary laws, 1669-1783 (with an index to volumes XXIII-XXV. This index is included in the main index described below.)
Vol. XXVI, Census of 1790, with index. (This volume is not indexed in the main index described below.)

Stephen B. Weeks (ed.), *Index to the Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* (Goldsboro, Charlotte, and Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 4 volumes, 1909-1914).

Vol. XXVII, Index, Volume 1, A-E

Vol. XXVIII, Index, Volume 2, F-L

Vol. XXIX, Index, Volume 3, M-R

Vol. XXX, Index, Volume 4, S-Z, with Historical Review.

A thorough bibliographical description and an analysis of the contents of all volumes are to be found in the Historical Review by Stephen B. Weeks in Volume XXX (Volume 4 of the Index).

It should be noted that while the *Colonial Records* volumes generally cover the period 1662-1776 and the *State Records* volumes the period 1776-1790, a considerable number of records for the earlier period were printed in the later series. Weeks determined that in the thirty volumes, some 12,651 pages were devoted to "Colonial Material, 1629-1776"; about 12,994 pages to "State Material, 1776-1790"; and 2,510 pages to the indexes and caption laws.

The arrangement of materials in each volume is not strictly chronological. Researchers who wish to study records by date will need to go through the appropriate volume(s) page by page. It should also be noted that the index, although comprehensive, is not without significant shortcomings. It should be used with discretion.

Of the records that are printed in the two series, the original manuscripts of most are in the North Carolina State Archives. A few are still in the custody of the Secretary of State; others are in the Public Record Office in London or in some other English repository; and some have not been located.

Researchers should be mindful that the editorial scholarship exhibited in *The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* is not up to present-day standards. Spelling and punctuation were usually changed to suit the editors; ellipses and omissions are sometimes not indicated; and the texts are frequently not accurate. This is not to say that the *Colonial Records* and *State Records* are without value. On the contrary, they form an exceedingly valuable finding aid to surviving records of North Carolina for the years prior to 1790.

The *Colonial Records*, *State Records*, and the index volumes may be found in many large public and college libraries throughout the country. Other libraries may borrow individual volumes on interlibrary loan from the State Library of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Microfilm copies of the ten volumes of *Colonial Records* may be purchased from the Photographic Services Section, CB# 3934 Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890. The thirty volumes comprising the *Colonial Records*, *State Records*, and index have been reprinted by Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1907 Buena Vista Circle, Wilmington, NC 28405, and are available from that company.

THE COLONIAL RECORDS OF NORTH CAROLINA [SECOND SERIES]

The Division of Archives and History is now publishing *The Colonial Records of North Carolina [Second Series]*. This new series presents categories of records as a whole rather than a variety within each year as Saunders and Clark did in the older volumes. Less than 15 percent of the material printed in *The Colonial Records of North Carolina [Second Series]* has been printed elsewhere.

Each of the volumes published to date contains an introductory essay which surveys the history of the North Carolina colony during the years covered in that volume, an explanation of the administrative background of the records being printed, and a thorough index of persons, places, and subjects. The second series rigorously adheres to a much higher standard of editorial transcription than was used by the editors of the *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*, and may be relied upon with confidence. The indexes of all volumes that have been published so far have been uniformly praised for their excellence.

All volumes printed to date are available from the Office of Archives and History, Historical Publications Section, 4622 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-4622. Future volumes in the series will appear at approximately three-year intervals. A total of about thirty volumes is planned. Information on volumes currently available and their cost may be obtained from the Historical Publications Section [<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hp/default.htm>].